

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle speed control system for a vehicle, the vehicle equipped with an engine and an automatic transmission, the vehicle control system comprising:

a coast switch for decreasing a set vehicle speed; and

a controller connected with said coast switch,

said controller configured for:

controlling a vehicle speed at the set vehicle speed by controlling a throttle of the engine and the automatic transmission; and

maintaining a gear ratio of the automatic transmission at a gear ratio set at a moment before decreasing the set vehicle speed ~~when the coast switch is being operated to decrease the set vehicle speed~~ during a time period when the coast switch is continuously and excessively switched on.

2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle speed control system for a vehicle, the vehicle equipped with an engine and an automatic transmission, the vehicle speed control system comprising:

a vehicle cruise speed setting device for setting a set vehicle speed; and

a controller connected with said vehicle cruise speed setting device, said controller configured for:

controlling a vehicle speed at the set vehicle speed by controlling a throttle of the engine and the automatic transmission; and

fixing a gear ratio of the automatic transmission during a time period ~~[[when]]~~ of continuously and excessively executing a decreasing operation of the set vehicle speed by ~~means of said vehicle cruise speed device is executed.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controller commands the automatic transmission to prohibit from executing a shift down when the set vehicle speed is being decreased by ~~operating said vehicle cruise speed setting device~~ continuously and excessively switching on a coast switch.

4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controller commands the engine to start a deceleration control when the set vehicle speed is being decreased by ~~operating said vehicle cruise speed setting device~~ continuously and excessively switching on a coast switch.

5. (Previously Presented) The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said vehicle cruise speed setting device comprises:

- a set switch for setting the set vehicle speed;
- a coast switch for decreasing the set vehicle speed; and
- an accelerate switch for increasing the set vehicle speed,

wherein said vehicle cruise speed setting device is manually operated by a vehicle occupant.

6. (Previously Presented) The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controller controls the engine rotation speed within a predetermined limit when a vehicle speed at a moment of restarting the vehicle speed control is greater than or equal to the set vehicle speed.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for executing a vehicle speed control, comprising:

controlling a vehicle speed at a set vehicle speed by controlling an engine and an automatic transmission of the vehicle;

detecting whether the set vehicle speed is being decreased; and

maintaining a gear ratio of the automatic transmission at a gear ratio set at a moment before ~~a vehicle cruise speed device is being operated to decrease the set vehicle speed~~ the set

vehicle speed is decreased, during a time period when the coast switch is continuously and excessively switched on.

8. (New) The vehicle speed control system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the time period of continuously and excessively executing the decreasing operation corresponds to a time period during a time period when a coast switch for decreasing the set vehicle speed is continuously and excessively switched on.

9. (New) The vehicle speed control system according to claim 1, wherein the controller maintains the gear ratio during the time period when the coast switch is continuously and excessively switched on independent of a road condition.

10. (New) The vehicle speed control system according to claim 2, wherein the controller fixes the gear ratio during the time period of continuously and excessively executing a decreasing operation of the set vehicle speed independent of a road condition.

11. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein step of maintaining the gear ratio during the time period when the coast switch is continuously and excessively switched on is performed independent of a road condition.